

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 27, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-23 are pending, of which the independent claims are 1, 6, 15 and 18. Claims 1, 6 and 18 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The information disclosure statement filed on 12/03/99 deemed non-compliant under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for lack of a concise explanation for the non-English-language foreign patent DE 29823119. Since this reference was cited in a search report by a foreign office, the search report is attached in accordance with MPEP 608.05(c) to meet duty of disclosure requirements.

The 12/03/99 information disclosure statement was further objected to for failing to list the relevant pages and dates for each publication listed. The attached copy of the corrected 12/03/99 statement contains relevant pages and dates for each reference. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(b), the applicants state that the year of publication for reference AJ is sufficiently earlier than the effective filing date for the present application so that the particular month of publication is not in issue.

The specification was objected to for an embedded hyperlink unbracketed by delimiters to prevent activation. The hyperlinks have now been bracketed as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 18-23 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness due to the use of an acronym unaccompanied by the phrase it represents. The phrase has now been inserted into claim 18, and the amendment is believed to overcome the basis for objection.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman (International Publication No. WO99/57837) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,597 to Cheng et al. ("Cheng").

Claim 1 as amended recites "A method of operating an intelligent digital device (IDD) receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and respective Document Type Definition (DTD) describing the data content, comprising:

verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criteria; and,
if said criteria is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content."

Support for this amendment is found in the specification (e.g., page 12, line 22 – page 13, line 7).

Item 7 of the Office Action concedes that Humpleman does not disclose satisfying "a predetermined criteria."

The Office Action proposes a Humpleman/Cheng combination, because Cheng discloses building a reference table XML_DTD_REF to include a copy of a DTD from an XML document after having determined that the DTD is not already in the table (col. 9, lines 44-61; col. 11, lines 58-65; col. 13, lines 37-58).

However, alone or in combination, the references fail to disclose "if said criteria is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content." For at least this reason, Humpleman/Cheng fails to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 1.

As to claim 6 as amended, it similarly recites "when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criteria, operating on said data contained in the XML document at the second IDD based on said content." Claim 6 is therefore deemed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Regarding claim 15, which has not been amended, it recites “(c) when the respective DTD satisfies a predetermined criteria, parsing the data in the XML document in accordance with the format described in the respective DTD to thereby generate parsed data from the related data; and (d) operating on the parsed data.”

On page 11, again the Office Action concedes the Humpleman does not disclose satisfying a “predetermined criteria.” The Office Action reiterates that Cheng discloses satisfying a “predetermined criteria” and relies again on the same text passages discussed above in connection with the reference table XML_DTD_REF. The Office Action also states that Humpleman discloses parsing XML to validate it.

However, the Cheng text passages relate to deciding whether to update a table used by an extender for a relational database. In either reference or in their proposed combination, there is no apparent connection between whether or not the table is updated and parsing of XML. Accordingly, there is no disclosure or suggestion of “when the respective DTD satisfies a predetermined criteria, parsing the data in the XML document in accordance with the format described in the respective DTD to thereby generate parsed data from the related data.”

For at least this reason, the proposed combination fails to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 18, which was amended merely to correct an informality, comprises five steps, and page 14 of the Office Action concedes that Humpleman fails to disclose steps 2 and 3. In particular, therefore, Humpleman fails to disclose:

“a second IDD stores N XML processors associated with N named DTDs;
and

a third IDD stores M XML processors associated with M named DTDs.”

On page 14, the Office Action discusses the Cheng table update and the Humpleman exchange of XML between devices, and then merely states that claim 18 would have been obvious “in order to clearly understand document structures and allow the user to store, search, and retrieve XML documents.” The Office Action offers no further guidance as to how the references are being combined.

The Office Action does not even attempt to allege that the references teach steps 4 and 5, i.e.,

“the second IDD processes the XML document using one of the N XML processors when the respective DTD corresponds to one of the N named DTDs;

the third IDD processes the XML document using one of the M XML processors when the respective DTD corresponds to one of the M named DTDs.”

There is no apparent way any combination of the two references could properly be said to render claim 18 obvious. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

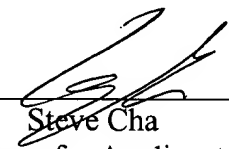
The remaining claims each depend from one of the independent claims, and are deemed patentable for at least the same reasons.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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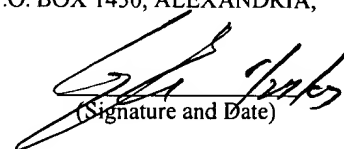
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